The University of Arizona Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) is pleased to announce the Oman-Zanzibar travel abroad project for K-12 educators and pre-service teachers. CMES has received a grant from the Fulbright-Hays Groups Projects Abroad Program to take 12 educators and pre-service teachers on a four-week curriculum-building trip to Oman and Zanzibar next summer. Most of the costs – including air travel – will be covered (see below). The program is based on similar successful programs CMES has offered since 2000 that focused on Morocco, Turkey, Syria, Cyprus, and the lands of the former Ottoman Empire.

Oman-Zanzibar Travel Seminar

This curriculum-building project will take educators for three weeks in Oman (a lovely country on the southern coasts of the Arabian peninsula) and one week in Zanzibar (a beautiful island in the Indian Ocean, off the east coast of Africa). The travel portion of the program will take place from approximately June 20, 2016 through July 20, 2016. (The exact dates, very close to these, will be determined later.) The program will enable educators to integrate Middle Eastern/African area studies as well as Arabic and Swahili language exposure into many segments of the curriculum. Two Arizona personnel will lead the group: Northern Arizona University history professor Scott Reese (the program’s Scholar Escort) and University of Arizona Director of Educational Outreach Lisa Adeli. The focus of the seminar will be on the cross-regional connections between the Middle East and Africa.

The program is designed to be academic, experiential, and practical. Participants will learn about the historical connections and divergences between Oman and Zanzibar. Local experts in both Oman and Zanzibar will give perspectives on music, culture, nomadic life, and other topics. Teachers will also receive 40 hours of instruction in the Arabic and Swahili languages as well as learning, through the lens of comparative/contact linguistics, of their interrelationship. Travel, visits to museum and cultural sites, and interaction with local people will give participants experiences and insights that they can bring back to the classroom – along with photos and cultural artifacts purchased as part of the project. All participants will receive at least 90 hours of professional development credit. (Interested educators may receive graduate credit – but only if they want to pay the tuition for the credits.)
For a tentative itinerary and for more information on Oman and Zanzibar – and their shared history – see the links on the webpage:
http://cmes.arizona.edu/outreach/summer_programs/oman_zanzibar  (Note: This information will help you prepare your personal statement, especially the curriculum plan.)

Important Notes on Travel to Oman and Zanzibar:

These countries are politically stable and have people that are generally warm and welcoming. Both are Muslim countries, so we will be expected to behave with decorum and dress modestly (though Islamic dress is NOT required, except when visiting a mosque). It will be Ramadan during part of the trip. Although, as non-Muslims, we will not be expected to fast during the daylight hours, we will need to be respectful of those who do and will probably not eat or drink in public during the day (though we will do it in private).

**Potential applicants should keep in mind that this trip will be physically demanding. It will be HOT. Although there is air-conditioning in our hotels and in many of the places we will visit, significant amounts of time will be spent outside, walking, in the heat of the day. There will also be climbing; elevators and escalators will usually be unavailable. Further, during our stay in Zanzibar (and just before and after), participants will be required to take anti-malarial medicine. Anyone with health concerns should consult with a physician regarding participation in this trip.

What is Expected of Participants:

Financial: The Fulbright-Hays grant and CMES funds will cover visas, housing in comfortable hotels or apartments, overseas airline costs (round-trip flights from New York City to Muscat, Oman; from Muscat to Zanzibar; and from Muscat to Salalah), mini-bus transportation within Oman and Zanzibar, some meals, all program costs and speakers’ fees (pre-travel, during the program, post-travel), a subsidy to purchase materials for your classroom, etc.. However, EACH PARTICIPANT be expected to: contribute $1,100 to the project, pay his/her transportation to and from New York City, and pay for some meals.

Participation: Selected participants are required to:
- attend 3 pre-travel Saturday workshops (to be held in spring 2016) and do an online Arabic language module. Participation may be either in person or via an online forum.
- be present and participate fully in all activities during the travel portion of the program
- attend, either in person or via an online forum, a post-travel follow-up meeting
- fulfill the curriculum development and presentation programs outlined below

Curriculum development and presentation: During the program and/or upon their return to the U.S., each participant will develop and implement an individual curriculum project (directly applicable to his/her classroom or school) and will participate in the creation of two group language/linguistics instructional modules. Following their return from the travel program,
participants are also required to give at least one presentation during a school or professional event or to a community group.

How to Apply

Step 1. Determine your eligibility.

You are eligible to apply for the Oman-Zanzibar program if you:

A. hold one of the following positions:
   - a full-time K-12 teacher in either a public or private school who teaches social studies, foreign languages, English, or fine arts (or multi-subject elementary teachers)
   - a full-time K-12 educator or supervisor responsible for planning, conducting, or supervising program in modern languages or area studies
   - a pre-service teacher who is a graduate student or a senior undergraduate student in an institution of higher education

B. are a U.S. citizen.

You are NOT eligible if you:

- are planning to retire or leave teaching within the next three years
- have participated in any Fulbright teachers’ program during the previous two years

If you have any questions as to eligibility, contact us before applying. (I can run your question by Fulbright-Hays in advance.)

Step 2. Complete the Application Form (1 page). Please TYPE your information. The application is available for download and edit by computer on the CMES webpage at: http://cmes.arizona.edu/outreach/summer_programs/oman_zanzibar

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT APPLICATION and RECOMMENDATIONS: We ask that you provide the contact information for two people who we can contact in support of your application. Recommender #1 must be a superior (principal, department head, or – for pre-service teachers – an academic advisor). Recommender #2 should be a colleague or instructor familiar with your work, interests, and goals (for pre-service teachers – a teacher mentor from student teaching or another academic advisor).

Step 3. Prepare a personal statement. Please address the following:
   - Why are you interested in the Middle East, East Africa, and (in particular) cross-regional connections between them?
- How would you integrate material from the program into your teaching/school?
- What individual curriculum project could you create and how would you share it with students and other educators?
- What are you professional goals, and how might they be enhanced though this project?
- What professional affiliations or experiences do you have that demonstrate your commitment to sharing your knowledge with colleagues?
- What unique experiences or background do you think make you particularly qualified to join this group project?
- What aspects of this trip do you think might be challenging for you, and how do you anticipate overcoming such obstacles?

Although there is no absolute page limit, your personal statement should be approximately 2-3 pages in length.

**Step 4.** Prepare a resume or CV that includes information on the courses you teach and/or plan to teach in the future.

**Step 5.** Submit THREE copies of the ENTIRE application packet – ONE original and TWO stapled photocopies in the following order:
- Signed application cover sheet(s)
- Essay/Personal Statement
- Resume or CV

**ONLY COMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED**

Applications (+ 2 photocopies) should be mailed or delivered:

Oman-Zanzibar Program  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies  
845 N. Park Avenue, Rm. 470  
Tucson, AZ 85721

The selection committee will meet to choose applicants after the deadline. Chosen applicants must be approved by Fulbright-Hays and will be notified as early as possible. If you have questions about the curriculum-building trip, please contact: Lisa Adeli, CMES Director of Educational Outreach at adeli@email.arizona.edu or by phone at 520.621.7904

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

4pm Arizona time, October 16, 2015